

Affidavit Under 37 CFR 1.132

Docket No.: RUANA-001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Art Unit: 3671

Examiner: Mayo, Tara L.

Serial No. 09/874,940

Filed: June 4, 2001

In Re Application of: Bruce M. Ruana

For: **RELEASABLY ATTACHABLE GRIP**Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop: Amendment Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on 2/13/06 Signed Stephanna Davis

AFFIDAVIT UNDER 37 CFR 1.132

I, Mary Ellen Padgett, am the Owner and Administrator of Riverview Manor Care Center, an assisted living facility in Gardnerville, Nevada. I have held this position since 1996. Prior to my work at Riverview Manor Care Center, I spent roughly five years providing home care for the elderly.

As an administrator and a home care provider, I have been involved in maintaining the safety of the living arrangements for the elderly. Hand-railing plays an important role in these living arrangements, as the elderly often require additional support, such as when they are standing, walking and showering.

However, hand-railing can be difficult to hold, as it does not provide an adequately secure gripping surface. This is especially true when the hand-railing is wet, such as when someone is exiting the shower. Hand-railing can also be uncomfortable to hold, as it is typically made out of metal or wood. Ever since I first became an administrator, there has been an unsatisfied need for providing a grip on hand-railing that is both secure and comfortable. Previous attempts by others at providing a solution, such

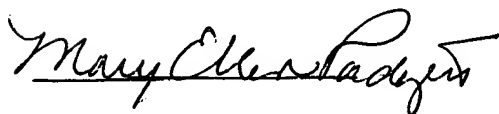
Affidavit Under 37 CFR 1.132

Docket No.: RUANA-001

as texturing the surface of the hand-railing itself, have proven to be unsuccessful. These previous attempts have not solved the problem of providing a grip on hand-railing that is both secure and comfortable.

The applicant's invention is the only product I have found that satisfies this long-felt need in the field. The applicant's product provides a grip having a skin layer that is to be axially wrapped around the outer surface of hand railing so that its edges do not overlap. The skin layer has a top surface that is continuous and flat, and the grip is adhered to the hand railing by a releasable adhesive that makes it easy to apply and replace.

I declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing therefrom.



Mary Ellen Padgett
Owner/Administrator
Riverview Manor Care Center



Date